The WOOD DUCK

VOL. 13 NO. 7 MARCH 1960

HAMILTON NATURALISTS' CLUB

DO YOU KNOW THESE INVERTEBRATES?

By Douglas M. Davies

Sometimes things come too easily in this push-button life of ours. Some of us may have lost our sense of curiosity! Do we have the patience to stay in one place along the trail long enough to appreciate it as a little community? To the uninitiated there may appear to be little that is alive. However, we see that this is far from true if we examine our surroundings more carefully, looking under the leaf or fallen log, or in the pond or stream.

The more we investigate, the more this fascinating world of small animals unfolds. Although the majority of these more or less secretive animals are insects, it is about the non-insectan animals that I shall write.

Under the waters of our lakes and streams are many strange creatures resembling, though usually smaller than, their relatives in the ocean. The freshwater sponges of our cooler, clean lakes may form grey or green moss-like cushions on rocks and logs under water, or appear as finger-like growths by covering twigs of dead trees that have fallen into the lake. The sedentary freshwater sponge, Spongilla, forms little limy crystals (spicules) which give it a gritty feeling when rubbed between the fingers. The cells of some sponges engulf many, minute, green, one-celled plants, zoochlorellar algae, which remain alive benefitting the sponge and colouring it green. Little resting gemmules, or winter 'buds' are formed in autumn to ensure the survival of the sponge until the following spring.

Other small invertebrates dwelling in our fresh waters are more active. The freshwater polyp, or hydra, may be found in clear water, holding to aquatic vegetation by its sticky foot and reaching down into the water by stretching its long, tube-like body and finger-like tentacles. It is often fascinating to watch one capture small crustaceans, water-fleas or copepods, with its tentacles and engulf them through its elastic mouth. I have found hydra in the outlet from Binkley Pond at the western edge of Hamilton. More spectacular were the moss-like waving mats of red-brown hydra and purple hydra on rocks in the Muskoka River at Bala in October. Some hydra, as do certain sponges, live sometimes in a mutually-beneficial co-existence with zoochlorellae and are then conspicuously green.

Recently the related freshwater jellyfish, a little ($\frac{1}{2}$in. diam.) floating umbrella, has been found in small lakes near Parry Sound. This is called Craspedicusta.

Under rocks in streams, such as Spencer Creek, or in ponds or lakes can be found another interesting animal, the flatworm (Planaria), gliding on a vibrating 'fur' of hairs on its pale undersurface or inching along in a leech-like motion. It is $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long with a brownish or grayish back and is characterized by two 'cross-eyed', black shields protecting two eyes at its front end. In the centre of its undersurface is a protusible proboscis that can be stuck out like a bad boy's tongue, but is used to feed on living or decaying animals. Planaria lay several eggs in one brown capsule, a little larger than the head of a pin. The capsule is attached by a stalk to the protected surfaces of underwater rocks. But planaria can multiply also by leaving its 'tail' behind which grows into a new animal. There is a rare blackish land planarian in moist Ontario woods, looking like a small dark slug without eyestalks. The author would be greatly pleased to hear from anyone finding one of these unusual fragile animals.

Although the minute free-living roundworms are common and varied in underwater sediments and in the soil of our woods, fields and gardens, they are mainly transparent, microscopic and poorly known even to biologists. More conspicuous are the segmented worms, especially numerous in the ocean floor, but quite well represented by earthworms and tubicolous worms in soil and lake sediments, and by free-living leeches in fresh water.

Leeches or 'bloodsuckers' often arouse a feeling of revulsion but most species in Ontario are harmless to man. One of the largest (3-6 in. long) is the tubular, flaccid Horse Leech (Haemopis), mottled olive green, brown and black. It is a feeder on aquatic worms and molluscs, seldom attacking man. On the other hand one should be wary of the more brightly coloured, strap-shaped leech, Macrobdella decora, (also 3-6 in. long) with its pale scarlet or orange belly and black or greenish back decorated with a row of reddish orange spots. It swims with a graceful, undulating motion through the water and only attacks if you remain inactive in the water after a period of splashing. The Parasitic Leech, Placobdella parasitica, attacks turtles, frogs and occasionally fish. Its body is broad and flat with a prominent posterior sucker and is greenish, striped and mottled with yellow. The eggs in gelatinous capsules are attached to the worm's ventral surface, and the young are carried by the hermaphroditic parent for several days after hatching. The leeches in streams are generally smaller and grayish or blackish. These feed on snails, small crustacea and aquatic insects.

Molluscs make an interesting study even for us who live far from the ocean. Snails and clams can be identified by their shells, and these are often found washed up on beaches, along stream banks after floods, or on moist semi-wooded slopes. Shells make a fine collection! Often snails are called univalves to contrast with the two-hinged shells (valves) of the bivalved clams. However, not all the snail class (gastropods) have shells. Their shelless relatives are called slugs, and many do considerable damage to our gardens. Most of the slugs that we see, are small, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. or less in length, but one of the largest slugs, Limax maximus (5 in. long), is not uncommon around Hamilton. This tan-coloured species with a dark brown border is much less colourful than the large orange, red or black slugs which I found in France and Switzerland in 1958.

The largest Ontario land snail, the White-lipped Snail (Triodopsis or Polygyra albolabris), is on the average about 1 in. in diameter with a low rounded convex upper surface and a grayish straw colour. Others are minute, being less than 1/25 of an inch but beautifully designed with a high spire. In winter or dry weather land snails form over the shell opening a mucous sheet that dries hard to protect the snail's soft body within.

The freshwater snails live mainly in the shallows. Some have evolved directly from marine snails over millions of years, and have gills and a horny 'door' (operculum) to close the aperture of the shell when they retire from enemies or unfavourable conditions. Others have evolved indirectly from marine snails through land snails that developed lungs. These lunged, non-operculate species, though living in ponds and slow streams, must come to the surface and open their lung to the air in order to breathe. Most snails lay a group of eggs in a transparent mucous covering, but others give birth to tiny fully-shaped replicas of themselves, e.g., Vivipara, a large snail found in slow streams and used in aquaria. With care in maintaining moisture you can watch the development of these eggs with a low power microscope or even a good magnifying glass,--the development taking a number of days.

The aquatic bivalved clams are usually larger than their cousins, the snails and slugs, but some never grow larger than 1/8 to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Others reach almost half a foot in length but most are only $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Their outer surface is coloured brown to blackish or greenish but the pearly inner surface is often pink to purple. To discover the many species of varied sizes and shapes makes a fascinating hobby.

I have been able to write of only a few of the many invertebrates that are everywhere around us. Perhaps at another time I can introduce you to the even more numerous 'jointed-leg' animals, such as freshwater shrimps and crayfish and the terrestrial free-living mites, pseudoscorpions, millipedes, centipedes and insects. I hope that you will make a start yourself in becoming familiar with the wealth of shy creatures that we pass or tread upon every day. They are interesting to study in the wild, in a terrarium, or an aquarium.

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.....and now you know.

The Whistling Swan, Cygnus columbianus, is a huge white bird with a long, straight neck and a black bill. Large flocks of these swans may sometimes be seen in the Hamilton Bay and the Marsh during the month of March.

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When the Red-winged Blackbird returns he will sing,---
'o-ka-choeee'.

CANADIAN BUG-HUNTING EXPEDITION SUCCESSFUL

By Walter Gilhooly

Two Canadian entomologists have completed a highly successful five months' trip to the South Pacific collecting insects. George P. Holland, head of the Insect Systematics and Biological Control Unit of the Entomological Division, Science Service, Department of Agriculture returned to Ottawa on November 28. Dr. E. G. Munroe, the leader of the expedition, has gone on to Bangkok, Thailand, where he will represent his department at the IX Pacific Science Congress. Mr. George P. Holland is an outstanding entomologist with an amazing knowledge of our native mammals and birds, his special field being the study of parasites infesting these animals. Members of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club will remember his collection of Canadian mammals which was loaned to them for the Nature Exhibition in 1957. An all-round naturalist, focussing attention on the inter-relationship of living things, Mr. Holland also features plants among his interests. George P. Holland, photographer and lecturer, will be guest speaker at the March 14, 1960 meeting of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club in Dalewood School Auditorium, at 8.00 P. M.

Purpose of Expedition

Why a pair of Canadian scientists should travel, literally, to the other side of the earth in search of insects, spend three and a half months, working seven days a week and frequently around the clock, in the mountainous wilds of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea was explained by Mr. Holland:

"The principal object of the trip," he said, "was to collect moths of the family Pyralidae, a large and complex group containing species that affect the agricultural economy of almost every nation in the world, including Canada. Some of these, such as the European corn borer, the beet web-worm and the Mediterranean flour moth are well known pests.

"Dr. Munroe", said Mr. Holland, "has been investigating the Pyralidae, which embraces more than 10,000 species, many of them poorly understood, on a global basis. Through the co-operation of entomological museums, extensive collections have been made available to him. However, adequate collections from New Guinea, known to have a rich and varied fauna, were lacking and so we went there."

Co-operation in the venture was provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization of Australia, much interested in its outcome for the result of its studies will have practical application to entomological problems of Australia. Travel was by small planes that somehow threaded their way through mazes of 15,000 feet mountains to tiny landing fields hacked out of the jungle. One of these was the second highest in the world.

Trip Successful

The expedition was most successful. Hundreds of thousands of specimens were collected, including representatives of about 2,000 species of Pyralidae, of which several hundred are new to science. As sound entomological research has to be based on correct identification of the pests concerned, studies of the fauna had to proceed in hand with practical field studies.

Many thousands of the specimens will find their way to the British Museum, the United States National Museum and universities with entomological departments and programs.

The expedition packed a portable power plant with an ultra violet ray lamp which attracted insects up to two miles. On a good night as many as 20,000 insects were bagged in a large receptacle resembling a garbage can and there poisoned by carbon tetrachloride.

While in the field, Munroe and Holland, on days and nights when weather conditions prohibited outdoor work, pinned 35,000 specimens. These and the unpinned balance were carefully packed in 18 large crates, the largest collection ever made in New Guinea, and are being sent on by ship to be incorporated in the Canadian National Collection of Insects.

"Many of the natives", Mr. Holland said, "particularly, those on the edge of the uncontrolled territory are living, literally, in the 'stone age'. Their war weapons and tools are made of wood, stone and bone". He brought back a ceremonial tribal axe, its stone blade honed to knife sharpness and its wooden handle bound with orchid stems.

"There are some 750 languages, and dialects in New Guinea, so everyone speaks pidgin-English", he said.

"We found the people good physical specimens and friendly, although we were warned of straying too far afield in the interior. Sorcery is still practised and you hear tales of cannibalism.

"The natives", Mr. Holland said, "have no written language. They have little idea of time or seasons. They have no currency. Tobacco is the chief medium of barter but a sheet of newspaper will get you the day's hire of a native. He uses newspaper to roll his cigarettes and we carried 16 pounds of them with us.

Climate Ideal

The climate is nearly ideal. Temperatures range from about 70 degrees at night to the 90's at mid-day. Sweet potatoes, plantions, sago and other stuff grow easily and without much tilling on village farms. The natives fish and, for meat, hunt tree kangaroo, cassowary, rats and opossum. Arrows tipped with human bone are regarded as the best. Mr. Holland saw one knife made of human bone.

Pigs are a sign of wealth and are saved for big tribal feasts. Since the climate is so soft and warm, men wear only the briefest sort of girdle, women a petticoat of shredded bark. In one part of Northern Guinea, men go stark naked. No one thinks anything of it.

New Guinea is the home of gorgeous butterflies, brilliant orchids and magnificent birds of paradise. Tribal ceremonies are, mostly, for men and they adorn themselves with paint and head-dresses of beautiful feathers.

"Until shortly before World War II, it was believed", Mr. Holland said, "that the interior of New Guinea was uninhabited. Now, missionaries have come to the

field and the Australian government is endeavoring to teach the people something of agriculture practice. It will take time to bring them up and out from the stone age but progress is being made."

At Port Moresby, Lae, Wewak and Rabaul, where the expedition carried on part of its investigations, half-sunken ships, wrecked landing barges, old, grown-over air strips spoke mutely of the fierce fighting there between Australians, Indians, Americans and Japanese.

Cannibalism, in the South Pacific, is of recent memory and may still be practised in the remote fastnesses of New Guinea. At Okapa, a number of natives dying of 'kuru', the 'laughing death', were universally believed to be meeting death through sorcery. Mr. Holland knew one man who gave up the ghost, and he wasn't laughing, because he had had "the bone finger" pointed at him.

Permission was granted to reprint this excerpt from "The Ottawa Journal" by its author, Walter Gilhooy.

D E C E M B E R S T O R M

W A K E

By C. A. Wolfe

One of the worst things that can happen to Upland Game birds has happened this year in Southern Ontario. A severe ice storm that started on Monday, December 27th coated everything with a heavy layer of ice. For the Hungarian Partridge and the Pheasant this means starvation and death.

These ground feeding birds depend on weed seeds for their winter food and with these encrusted in ice this food is not available. These birds in cold, wet, freezing weather such as this require more than the usual amount of food to keep up their body heat. When such food is not available it is only natural that they will die of exposure and pneumonia.

The wide dispersal of these wild birds makes it impossible to set up feeding stations. Shocked up corn in the fields and feed around the farm buildings provide the main chance that some of these birds will survive.

It is discouraging to sit here after 6 days of heavy ice knowing these birds are dying and that man can do little about it. Situations like this make a person realize how important Game management is, even if some times man's efforts man's efforts seem rather insignificant.

Reprinted courtesy Weekly Report, District of Lake Huron, Department of Lands and Forests (Ontario).

SPIDERS COLLECTED IN THE STUDY AREA OF THE HAMILTON JUNIOR NATURALISTS' CLUB

By Brian H. Poole

A survey of the species of spiders occurring in the study area of the Hamilton Junior Naturalists' Club was made in 1956 and 1957. This 20-acre area is located on the north shore of the Dundas Marsh, just east of Hopkins Creek. The specimens were kindly identified by Mr. Charles D. Dondale, Associate Entomologist at the Science Service Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture, Kentville, Nova Scotia. In the 216 specimens examined the following species were found.

Families & Species	No. of Specimens	Extreme dates of collections	Habitat
THERIDIIDAE			
Crustulina sp. (imm.)	1		
Theridion sp. (imm.)	2	July 10-Oct. 6	Dry grassy field
ERIGONIDAE			
Catabrithorax plumosus Emer.	1		
Ceraticelus similis (Banks)	3		
Eperigone tridentata Emerton	1	Oct. 8	Reeds along shore
Erigone sp.	4	Apr. 23-July10	Dry grassy field
			Dead reeds over mud
Erigonids (imm.)	11	Apr. 23-Oct. 6	Dry grassy field
ARGIOPIDAE			
Araneus foliatus Fourcroy	3	Oct. 6	Reeds along shore
Araneus sp. (imm.)	4		
Argiope trifasciata (Forskal)	2	Oct. 6	Dry grassy field
Mangora gibberosa (Hentz)	13	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
Mangora sp. (imm.)	1	July 10	Dry grassy field
TETRAGNATHIDAE			
Minognatha foxi (McCook)	1	July8	Dry grassy field
Pachygnatha kuratai Levi	3	Apr. 3-23	Dead reeds over mud
Tetragnatha elongata Walck.	1		
Tetragnatha caudata Emerton	1	Oct. 6	Reeds along shore
Tetragnatha laboriosa Hentz	1	June8	Dry grassy field
Tetragnatha straminea Emerton	1		
Tetragnatha sp. (imm.)	5	June8-Oct. 6	Dry grassy field

LINYPHIDAE			
Lepthyphantes sp.	1	Oct. 6	Dry grassy field
Linyphia sp. (imm.)	8	Apr. 3-23	Dry grassy field and forest floor
Meioneta sp.	1		
Pityophantes costatus Hentz	1	Apr. 3	Dead reeds over mud
MICRYPHANTIDAE			
Ceraticellus emertoni (O.P.- Cambridge)	2	Oct. 6	Dry grassy field
EPEIRIDAE			
Neoscona sp. (imm.)	1	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
Acanthepeira sp. (imm.)	2	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
AGELENIDAE			
Agelenopsis sp. (imm.)	1	July10	Dry grassy field
PISAURIDAE			
Dolomedes striatus Giebel	2	Apr. 3	Dead reeds over mud
Dolomedes sp. (imm.)	1	Oct. 6	Reeds along shore
DICTYNIDAE			
Dictina sp. (imm.)	1	Apr. 3	Forest floor
CLUBIONIDAE			
Agroeca pratensis Emerton	1		
Clubiona mixta Emerton	1	Apr. 3	Dead reeds over mud
Clubiona sp. (imm.)	4	Apr. 23-Oct. 8	Dry grassy field,
Phrurotimpus alarius Hentz	3	Apr. 3-June8	Dead reeds over mud. Forest floor
Phrurotimpus borealis Emerton	1	June8	Forest floor
Trachelus ruber Keyserling	1		
LYCOSIDAE			
Pardosa milivina Hentz	1	June8	Dry grassy field
Pardosa modica Blackwall	2	Apr. 23	Dead reeds over mud
Pardosa moesta Banks	2	Apr. 3-June8	Dead reeds over mud
Pardosa saxalis Hentz	11	Apr. 3-June8	Dry grassy field
Pardosa sp. (imm.)	16	Apr. 3-Oct. 6	Dead reeds over mud, Rotting log.
Pirata marxi Stone	1		
Pirata sp. (imm.)	39	Apr. 3-Oct. 8	Dead reeds over mud, Dry grassy field.
Schizocosa avida (Walckenaer)	5	June8	Dry grassy field, Forest floor.
Schizocosa crassipalpis (Emer.)	3	June8	Dead reeds over mud
Schizocosa crassipes (Walck.)	1	June8	Dry grassy field
Schizocosa sp. (imm.)	11	June8	Dry grassy field Forest floor

THOMISIDAE			
Misumena vatia (Clerck)	2	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
Misumenops asperatus (Hentz)	1	June8	Flowers
Philodromus sp. (imm.)	1	Apr.23	Dry grassy field
Thanatus formicinus (Clerck)	1	June8	Dry grassy field
Tibellus oblongus (Walck.)	2	Apr.3-late Oct.	Dry grassy field
Tibellus sp. (imm.)	1	Apr.3	Dry grassy field
Xysticus sp. (imm.)	4	Apr.23-Oct,6	Dry grassy field, Forest floor Reeds over mud
GNAPHOSIDAE			
Poecilochroa decorata (Kaston)	1	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
SALTICIDAE			
Habrocestum pulex (Hentz)	1	June8	Forest floor
Icius similis Banks	1	Late Oct.	Dry grassy field
Maevia vittata (Hentz)	1		
Maevia sp. ?	4	Apr.3	Rotting log
Metaphidippus galathea (Walck.)	2	June8	Low evergreen
Metaphidippus prolervus (Walck.)	3	Apr.3-Late Oct.	Dead reeds over mud Dry grassy field
Metaphidippus sp. (imm.)	1	Apr.3	Forest floor
Pellenes hoyi (Peckham)	1	Oct.6	Dry grassy field
Phidippus rimator (Walck.)	5	Apr.23-late Oct.	Dead reeds over mud, Dry grassy field.
Salticus scenicus Linnaeus	1		
AMAUROBIIDAE			
Amaurobius ferox (Walckenaer)	1		

The above list includes 41 definite species and 44 genera of 15 families. I am certain that there are many times this number of spider species present in the study area and that other families, such as the Uloboridae, are represented. Further collecting will, undoubtedly, show this to be true.

I wish to thank Mr. Leslie Laking for allowing me to make this survey on the lands of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

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This is the first report resulting from biological studies by members of the Hamilton Junior Naturalists' Club. It is hoped that this will stimulate further investigations in the study area on other animals and plants, as well as spiders. For example, the number of each species of bird nesting in the area, could be related to a map of the vegetation cover. Also Hopkins Creek, which flows through the west side of the area, is teeming with life that could be collected with simple equipment.

D. M. Davies

THE SIGNPOST

The SIGNPOST swings in the March winds, directing your attention and attendance to events vital to the welfare of our Club. The prevailing winds point the arrow to DALEWOOD AUDITORIUM and the excellent evening to be provided for naturalists and their friends. Miss Lydia Snow, Chairman of the Programme Committee, in her notice below makes these directions clear. Be sure that a successful March meeting will benefit you personally and the prestige of our Club as a whole.

Accompanying this March issue of "The Wood Du ck", is a handsomely-designed notice, the effort of Miss A. E. Le Warne. Please use this notice for publicity as we have suggested before with the words,--Naturalists,--Please display this notice prominently on bulletin boards in your offices, shops, schoolrooms, libraries, churches, etc., for information of public.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1960, 8.00 P. M.

DALEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

No doubt we have all been fascinated by the stories of the head-hunters of New Guinea and would like to hear first-hand what this great island is like to-day. A splendid opportunity to do so arises when the Hamilton Naturalists' Club meets in March.

GEORGE P. HOLLAND

"A NATURALIST IN PRIMITIVE NEW GUINEA"

Mr. George P. Holland, an outstanding entomologist and naturalist from the Entomological Division, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa will tell of a trip he and Dr. Eugene Munroe made recently to this great island of the Far East.

He will discuss the scientific objectives of their trip, describe the topography and general natural history of New Guinea including mention of its mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, plants and especially its native people. Mr. Holland will show his kodachrome slides in conjunction with his talk.

Your Executive anticipates a well-attended meeting. In view of this please note CHANGE OF PLACE. This meeting will be held in

YOUR SIGNPOST:

DALEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
MAIN STREET AT HADDON AVENUE
HAMILTON

ADMISSION: Non-members 50¢ - Members free upon presentation of Hamilton Naturalists' Club Membership Card.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

CHESTER P. LYONS

"The Right to Live"

Wednesday, 23 March, 1960

Mr. Lyons of Victoria, British Columbia, takes us from the mysterious forest of giant trees of British Columbia to the peaks of the rugged Rockies. As the film depicts the colourful plants and animals in each of the five altitudinal "life zones" there is woven the story of how man could manage his domain for the benefit of all. Mountain lions, moose, caribou, big-horn sheep and mountain goats vie with unusual close-ups of flowers, insects and small mammals in this kaleidoscope of Nature's wonders.

YOUR SIGNPOST: Westdale Secondary School Auditorium, Hamilton

For Tickets: Mrs. W. Braden, Waterdown P. O., Ontario. MU. 9-4975.

FIELD EVENTS:

Sunday, March 13th, 1960 - Niagara Frontier Trip

Another trip to the Niagara Frontier to see the wild fowl. Bring your lunch.

YOUR SIGNPOST: Time: 9.00 A. M.
Place: Main and Ottawa Streets.
Leader: Miss Eunice Smillie, JA. 2-1669.

Sunday, March 19th, 1960 - North Shore Dundas Marsh Expedition

Seeking out the birds along the North Shore of Dundas Marsh and Lake Ontario. Lunch,--of course!

YOUR SIGNPOST: Time: 10.00 A. M.
Place: Meet at Low Level Bridge
Leader: Bob Curry.

.....and now you know.

Evening Grosbeak, Hesperiphona vespertina, are chubby birds with a relatively large, white, conical bill. Male birds are yellow and females are grey with yellow; and both show a distinct colour pattern of black and white. There are great white patches on the black wings and they both have black tails.

Sunday, March 27th, 1960 - Long Point Auto Trip

Auto trip to Long Point to see Whistling Swans and Ducks. Bring your lunch.

YOUR SIGNPOST: Time: 7.30 A. M.
Place: Meet at John and Main Sts.
Leader: Doug. Smith.

.....and now you know.

The song of the Cardinal can be imitated by humans by whistling the following, "who it, who it, who it". Another of his songs, this time in a slurred manner, is to whistle the word, "two! two, two, two."

Hamilton Naturalists' Club

Presents

FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

John B. Giles
Exhibition Chairman

The Panel for Selection

Professor A. F. Coventry ..... Streetsville, Ontario
William K. Kirkwood..... Ancaster, Ontario
Louis Quitt, A.P.S.A..... Buffalo, New York.

Calendar

Entries Close ..... March 25, 1960
Selection for Exhibition and Banquet..... April 2, 1960

Recognition will be as follows: One C.P.A.C. Crest Award
Honour Award Ribbons
Acceptance Cards

Catalogues will be sent to appropriate P.S.A. representatives for Star Rating Credits and "Who's Who in Nature Photography" listing.

The Selected Slides will be shown on Monday, April 11th, 1960 at 8.00 P. M. in the Westdale Secondary School Auditorium. No admission charge.

Already overseas entries are coming in and those who wish to submit their photography for judging should write to the Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Main Post Office Box 384 for entry forms.

VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND CAMP

Here is a holiday treat for anyone interested in the study, appreciation and conservation of nature. Sponsored by the Hamilton Naturalists' Club the WEEKEND CAMP will conveneFriday evening, May 20th at Kenesserie Camp, about one mile outside Rondeau Provincial Park on Lake Erie, south of Morpeth, Ontario. Three full days' activities will ensue - May 21st, May 22nd and May 23rd. Family groups are welcome. Able, enterprising leaders in all fields of plant and animal life will instruct the group. The spring bird migration will be at its height.

Accommodation will be in cabins,--campers will supply their own sheets, blankets and personal necessities. A minimum of 70 registrations must be submitted by May 1st, 1960 or it will be necessary to cancel the camp. Five Dollar registration fee ($5.00) must accompany registration. Total cost for the whole weekend, including food, lodging and instruction is Twenty Dollars ($20.00).

Make your plans to attend the Victoria Day Weekend Camp now. Folder and registration form will be circulated soon.

THE WOOD DUCK

"The Wood Duck" is published monthly, from September to May, by the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. Its purpose is to aid in the study, appreciation and conservation of our native, wild and beautiful heritage. Members are urged to share their nature experiences and are requested to send their contributions to the Editor by the 10th of the month, to appear in the following issue. Material may be reprinted without special permission, if credit lines are given.

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Subscription available upon affiliation with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

JUNIOR CLUB NEWS

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THANKS TO SENIOR CLUB

The Junior Naturalists' Club had a rare treat on Saturday night, February 13th. All the members were admitted free to the Audubon Screen Tour film called, "Designs for Survival". This fascinating story as pictured and narrated by Mr. William Anderson showed the intimate activities for survival,--feeding, movement, sensitivity and reproduction in all types of animals from caterpillars, marine worms and angler fish to snakes, alligators and an osprey family. Twenty members of the Club had a memorable evening.

THE NIAGARA RIVER AUTO HIKE

By John B. Miles

At 9 o'clock, on Sunday, January 31st, thirty people met at Main and Ottawa Streets for the Niagara River Auto hike. The first stop was at Jordan Harbour where there were Herring Gulls and Greater Black-backed Gulls. At Port Dalhousie we saw 200 Canvasbacks, several hundred Scaup and several other species of ducks. A Rough-legged Hawk was seen soaring over a nearby field.

The ice floes on the river at Fort Erie were very large but the ducks didn't seem to mind them. There were several hundred Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads swimming in the patches of open water. We couldn't find the Barrow's Goldeneye at Millar's Creek although there were many Common Goldeneyes and Canvasbacks on the river.

Above the Falls were 7 Glaucous Gulls sitting on the rocks. Among the Black Ducks were a pair of Gadwalls, several Pintails and American Widgeon. Below the Falls, several hundred Common Mergansers were sitting on the ice bridge. Near the Maid of the Mist landing; 4 Canada Geese were seen. These Geese had been there since November. Almost an hour was spent at Niagara-on-the-Lake watching Old Squaws and the Bonaparte's Gulls flying out to the lake. In the time we were there, 2,200 Old Squaws and 1,500 Bonaparte's Gulls flew by.

The light was failing and we headed for home. The Niagara River trip had been very enjoyable. Gulls numbered fewer than usual; ducks, more plentifully.

FUTURE JUNIOR CLUB EVENTS

MEETINGS (Y. W. C. A., Main Street just west of James Street)

Saturday, March 12 - 7.30 P. M., Y. W. C. A., Room "E".

In order that Mr. Bastin and the Junior Club members could all see the Audubon Screen Tour film a month ago, it was arranged that Mr. Eric Bastin postpone his illustrated talk on Long Point until tonight. Anyone who has visited this interesting refuge of unusual wildlife, stretching south into Lake Erie, will rush to see what Mr. Bastin caught in his colour camera. Bring your friends or at least a classmate!

Saturday, March 26 - 8.00 P. M. McMaster University.

Tonight we are to have an almost premiere showing with the new projector in the University Planetarium. Each year this "travel across the world", looking at the stars in the heavens, is a special delight. What does the sky look like at the North Pole? What are the southern Magellanic clouds? Enter at the northwest door of the Physical Sciences Building (the building directly west of the end of Sterling Avenue).

HIKE

Saturday, March 19 - 9.00 A.M. - Noon.

Mr. Dave Powell (NE 4-5045) will lead a hike along the south shore of the Dundas Marsh to see the new arrivals in ducks and hawks. Meet at King Street and University Avenue. Wear waterproof footwear!

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JUNIOR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February 4, 1960.

Dear Sir:

In reply to "Keenly Interested", that the plea for more feeding stations in the January issue of The Wood Duck was an insult to the intelligence of the Juniors,--I feel that this was a very artful way of getting the point across. Most of the members of the Junior Club are under 11 years of age, I think they will agree with me that it was a fine insert. I feel this criticism was undue.

Junior Club Member.

Many thanks, Junior Member--keep writing, tell us, yourselves what copy is most acceptable. ED.

NOTEWORTHY BIRD RECORDS

Number of species recorded to February 28, 1960 - 103

Common Loon	(1) Feb. 21	★ Community Beach	R. Idema, J. Miles, D. Powell
Eared Grebe	(1) Feb. 21	Lake at Gray's Rd.	G. North, " " "
Great Blue Heron	(1) Jan. 2	★ Credit River	Harvey Gillam
Brant	(1) Feb. 14	Clarkson	R. MacLaren, J. Miles, North
Gadwall	(1) Jan. 30	★ Clarkson	Huber Moore
Green-winged Teal	(1) Feb. 28	Longwood Road	North, S. Alexander, Powell
American Widgeon	(3) Jan. 2	★ Port Credit	Dr. Don Gunn
Hooded Merganser	(1) Jan. 23	★ Oakville	Lucie McDougall
Goshawk	(1) Feb. 28	★ Bronte	G. W. North
Bald Eagle	(1) Jan. 24	★ Dundas Marsh	Alfred Epp, Albert Gorman
Gray Partridge	(25) Jan. 23	Woodburn	Harry & Lucie McDougall
	(15) Jan. 24	Greensville	J. Miles, Dr. R. MacLaren
Killdeer	(1) Jan. 4	★ Lorne Park	Don Perks
	(2) Feb. 28	Clarkson	G. W. North, D. K. Powell
Snowy Owl	(1) Jan. 28	★ East end of Bay	G. W. North
	(1) Feb. 25	Gage & Fennel	Robert K. Sargeant
Saw-whet Owl	(1) Jan. 30	★ Clarkson	Huber Moore
Eastern Phoebe	(1) Feb. 10	★ Romar Dr., Dundas	Olive Newcombe
Tufted Titmouse	(1) Feb. 26	Hostein, Ancaster	John H. Carson
	(another 1) Feb. 28	" " "	" "
Hermit Thrush	(1) Jan. 16	★ Port Credit	Huber Moore
Eastern Bluebird	(2) Jan. 30	N. shore Dundas Marsh	Alfred Epp
Rufous-sided Towhee	(1) Jan. 31	★ Bronte	J. Dowall, G. North
Savannah Sparrow	(1) Jan. 3	★ Lorne Park	J. L. Baillie
Grasshopper Sparrow	(1) Jan. 18	★ Port Credit	Dr. Don R. Gunn
White-crowned Spar.	(1) Jan.	★ Port Credit	Barbara Parker
Lapland Longspur	(2) Jan. 23	★ Smithville	Harry & Lucie McDougall
	(1) Feb. 7	Flamboro Centre	D. K. Powell, R. MacLaren

Other commoner species reported on January 1, 1960, but not noted in last month's "Wood Duck", are as follows: Mallard, Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Common Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Glaucous Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, House Sparrow, Cardinal, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch, Slate-colored Junco, Tree Sparrow and Song Sparrow.

Please send your reports to Mr. George North, 249 Charlton Ave. W., Hamilton, Ont., Telephone JA 2-6082, before the 15th of the month.

A bird from the old world that will be of interest to our readers, although it is outside our 25-mile limit, has appeared on the Niagara Frontier. It is an immature female Smew, a small merganser, that Dr. Harold Axtell found in south Buffalo Harbor January 17th. A party from Toronto, including Jim Baillie, rediscovered it on the Niagara River at Miller's Creek on February 21st. Dr. Don Gunn and George North found it by Frenchman's Creek on the 23rd. On February 27th George North, Jim Dowall and Doug. Smith found it on the River near Ussher's Creek.